Peggy Packard's Skills Till Many Fields

ARTS EXPRESS INDIVIDUALISM

DOWN in our venerable City Hall, enshrined where today's municipal authority and yesterday's municipal architecture co-exists more or less peacefully, there is a delightful bust of the late Captain Norman Foster.

A stranger to the Captain—such as a city visitor or a tourist, because there are few residents who did not know him—can stare at this plaster portrait and form a very reliable estimate of him. This, naturally, they could not have done when he was alive because it is very rude to stare.

The impression received is that of someone just on the brink of saying something genuinely pleasant which, in turn, indicates that the subject felt and was thinking pleasantly; that he was, in fact, a very pleasant and much beloved man.

Everybody knows that Captain Foster was just that.

PEGGY WALTON PACKARD . . . for her old-age, the piano.

Thus the memorial bust does much more than reproduce a physical likeness. Long after people have forgotten what manner of man he was, the bust will be there to remind them not only of how he appeared but, far more important, of how he thought, felt and acted. These, of course, are the stuff that a memory is made of.

The artist was Peggy Walton Packard. In these years of general hegiras, flights, escapes, transient populations, immigration and movings hither and yon within smaller compasses, Mrs. Packard has lived in the same place, at 1885 Lansdowne Road, all her life. The address is better known as "The Barn" for the peculiarly sane and obvious reason that the building began life as such and was remodelled. Mrs. Packard does much of her sculpture in what was once a horse stall. Where once the carriage stood there is now an array of sculpture in varying stages of completion. The hay mow is an art studio.

"The Barn" breathes art but, as witness the skilful likeness of the Captain at City Hall, it is a genuine and solid form.

Peggy Walton Packard is a singer of no small repute with many festival and other successes to her credit.

For example, she has sung in Handel's "Messiah," "Mozart's "Requiem," Mendlessohn's "Hymn of Praise" and Vaughan-William's "Dona nobis pacem," all with the Victoria Choral Society.

She is also a painter, a pianist, an actress. Sculpture and portaits are her favorite media though last year she sang the part of "Kleeta" in the Centennial production of Madame Fahey's "The Brideship" and, next month, sings "Eleanor" in the Victoria Light Opera Company's "The Jewel of Loodipoor."

On the other hand, at the Jaycees' Fair in 1957, she produced excellent pastel portraits at the rate of three or four an hour, approximately seven hours a day for six days. And she has done these on-the-spot portaits at the Victoria Art Gallery, the Crystal Gardens and other places. She also did considerable portrait work in New York.

And then, as if to complicate matters, she says: "I love to play the piano! Is is one of the things I plan to take up in my old age." As "Olga" in the Theatre Guild's production of "Stage Door," she played beautifully. Her old age holds most pleasurable promise.

"Art," says Peggy Packard, "is the expression of a person's response to things, people and circumstances through various media."

It is, in other words, simply the expression of feeling; feeling which has been generated by a sight or a sound of a combination of them. Mrs. Packard goes further.

"All arts," she observes, "are a feeling for the expression of beauty; beauty not necessarily the same as prettiness. Everyone has artistic feelings in some degree. It shows up in such everyday things as having a nice house or garden, in gracious entertaining, in religion. In some people the desire to express artistic response has been suppressed with a consequent deadening of the response itself."

For sculpture, Mrs. Packard lists as requirements "patience and more patience, a thorough knowledge of anatomy and a feeling for dramatic gesture."

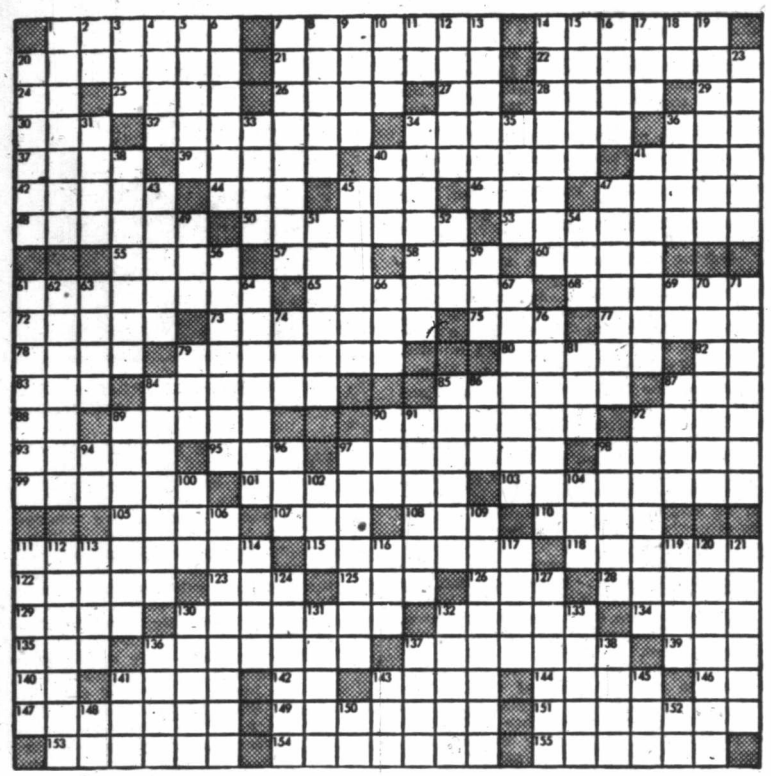
"You must," she says, "capture and reproduce the basic quality in any subject!"

Oh, yes! Peggy Walton Packard on the subject of art in all its various forms, its begin and its end, is very valuable hearing. And the practical examples which her theory has produced prove it.

ANAGRAM ANSWERS

(1) REBOUND
(2) SMITTEN
(3) CERAMIC
(4) PROFUSE
(5) MORAINE

SUNDAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

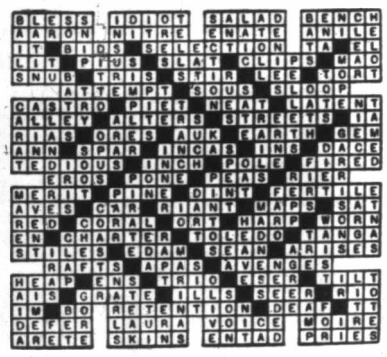


ACROSS

1 Censured harshly
7 Chain (pl.)
14 Movie acting award (pl.)
20 Kind of triangle
21 Hastened
22 A hymn tune
24 New Zealand native fort
25 Mohammedan-Malay law of Dutch East Indies
26 Man's name
27 U.S. soldier
28 Cure by salting
29 Babylonian deity
30 Beverage
32 Emitted visible vapor
34 Illustration
36 Footlike part
37 Cut lengthwise
39 Go in
40 Part of horse's foot
41 Pastry
42 Ethical
44 Rocky pinnacle
45 Writing implement
46 Babylonian numeral
47 Water spirit
48 Money
50 An innkeeper in Italy
53 Animal (pl.)
55 Malay dagger
57 Observe
58 Man's name
60 Immerses
61 Captured (slang)
65 Myths
68 Masculine name
72 Sign of the Zodiac
73 A wine seller
75 Genus of hogs
77 Animate
78 Short sleeps
79 Let go
80 Poetic composition
82 North Syrian deity
83 Pronoun
84 Expeditions for food
85 Oust
87 Macaw
88 Native infantry (ab.)
89 Polishing material made from potter's clay
90 Liquor vessels
92 The dill
93 A dye
95 Directed
97 Sandy
98 Near
99 Bird (pl.)
101 Yield to depression
103 Lapses
105 Brings legal action against
107 To blight
108 Egyptian god of setting sun
110 Row
111 Reached
115 Diminished toward a point
118 Missive
122 Covering for shoulders
123 Ethiopian title: prince
125 Operated
126 Month (ab.)
128 Los Angeles baseball coach
129 Makes incision
130 Allured
132 Boredom
134 Maxim (archaic)
135 Abstract being
136 Neither animal or vegetable
137 One who owns place for deposit or loan of money (pl.)
139 Old type of short tale
140 State (ab.)
141 Beverage
142 I am (contr.)
143 Kind of plum
144 Drinks slowly
146 Pair (ab.)
147 Maligns
149 Term of office (pl.)
151 Finest of Chinese raw silk
153 Oppose
154 Pencil rubber (pl.)
155 Tears into strips

DOWN

1 Mollusk
2 Musical syllable
3 Wing
4 Spreads for drying
5 Growing out
6 Pawl
7 Impractical ideas
8 Boring tool
9 Walked on
10 Make mistake
11 Symbol for nickel
12 Shield
13 Proclamations
14 Happened
15 Fleeced
16 Part of apple
17 Alder tree (Scot.)
18 Sun god
19 Made glossy
20 Involuntary muscle contractions
23 Artist's stand (pl.)
31 Ireland
33 On the summit
34 Basket for carrying provisions
35 Kind of duck
36 Couple
38 Football position (pl.)
40 People (ab.)
41 Grossly
43 Italian coins (pl.)
45 Arranges oneself fastidiously
47 Placate
49 Norse goddess of healing
51 Alluvial deposit (pl.)
52 Sea eagle
54 Lubricating liquid
56 Many
59 Paid notices
61 Dogs
62 Speech
63 Part of mouth (pl.)
64 Enlarged
66 Command to horse
67 Assume
69 Kind of palm
70 High mountain
71 Narrates
74 French Marshal
76 Quickest
79 Steal
81 Letter of alphabet
84 — Hall, Cradle of Liberty
85 Anger (colloq.)
86 The self
87 Ox of the Celebes
89 Kind of cutting tool (pl.)
90 Away
91 Of a religious period of self denial
92 Was put on guard
94 Spanish for "yes"
96 Lair
97 Clothing
98 Gladden
100 Japanese coin
102 Occupy a seat
104 149 (Rom. num.)
106 Most peaceful
109 Baseness
111 Rise
112 — and lighting
113 Makes lace edging
114 Woman
116 Stuff
117 Dip doughnut into coffee
119 The linden
120 Eludes capture
121 To withdraw
124 Elf
127 Hotel patrons
129 Prong of fork (pl.)
131 More domesticated
132 Anxious
133 Of an island near Europe's mainland
136 Heroine of La Boheme by Puccini
137 Uncover
138 Box
141 Form of "to be"
143 Man's nickname
145 Sainte (ab.)
148 Symbol for iron
150 Symbol for sodium
152 Lord (ab.)

SOLUTION NEXT SUNDAY

Last Sunday's Solution